

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This issue is an invitation to a constitutional discussion. Disputes over constitutions, present and ongoing in Poland and in many countries across the world, are where major civilisational, social, economic, and political issues of the 21st century surface. They are manifestations of attempts to take up a dialogue, to limit the imbalance, and to overcome the uncertainty in the relationship between authorities and societies.

Every constitution is a sort of bridge between legal discourse and political and moral discourse. And this issue of our journal shows exactly that. Constitutions fulfil many functions in the environments and legal frameworks they exist in. The texts of constitutions are developed in specific historical circumstances, to serve purposes of crucial importance to a given point in time, and so they have different elements emphasised in a way to enable the effective achievement of the most significant political goals for which the work on each constitution started. Constitutions of democratic states wish to be symbols of a collective identity and perform many other functions, e.g. informative, integrative, directival, persuasive, stabilising and innovative, expressional-emotional. However, *tempus fugit*, times change, the constitutional function to stabilise and integrate is losing its significance, and constitutional questions about new objectives, measures, and methods to solve key problems recur.

The discussion will be continued in the next issues as we have received many more interesting, original, and valuable texts in this field than we can fit in one volume of our quarterly.

We have decided to start the year 2019 by browsing our rich “e-files” for interesting articles on “hot” topics, clearly separating the issue into two parts. The authors who have contributed to this issue of our journal are professional researchers and live in five different countries.

Part I of the issue (six texts), edited by J. Stambulski, PhD, touches upon a set of common ideas, expressed in the text by A. Czarnota, PhD and J. Stambulski, PhD – “The Janus Face of Constitutionalism”. Here is a quotation from the article, summarising one of the main ideas shared by the featured materials: “So far, the public

domain has been dominated by legal constitutionalism (constitutional dogma), which excludes the constitution from the public sphere, subjecting it to the authority of lawyers-experts. The contemporary political phenomena such as: new populism, illiberal democracy or new constitutionalism should shift the interest of researchers to the political aspect of constitutionalism.”

Part II, edited by Professor E. Popławska (the next five texts), is a collection of fully heteronomous articles, addressing other significant constitutional issues – from dogmatic-legal to philosophical-legal aspects of constitutionalism.

We would also like you to know that “Critique of Law” now exists also on social media. M. Juzaszek, PhD, has joined our team to manage our Twitter and Facebook presence.

Following the completed project entitled “Debate” (cf. Professor W. Hoff’s report in issue 4/2018), we have launched “Writing Workshops for Authors Contributing to “Critique of Law””. The first workshop session took place at KU in Warsaw on 28 March 2019 and focused on the process of publishing scientific papers. It is important to see the journal gaining academic interest.

You are warmly encouraged to read issue 1/2019 and to send new submissions.

Professor Jolanta Jabłońska-Bonca
“Critique of Law” Editor-in-Chief